

Mr. Rizzuto was born on September 25, 1917 and grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, New York, dreaming of one day playing professional baseball. He was eventually signed by the Yankees in 1937 as a free agent and played his first professional game in 1941.

After serving in the United States Navy during World War II, Mr. Rizzuto resumed playing for the Yankees in 1946, staying there through the end of his career in 1956. During this period, the Scooter played in five All-Star games, won the Hickok Belt in 1950, awarded to the top professional athlete of the year, and helped the Bronx Bombers win seven World Series championships with his clutch hitting abilities. Mr. Rizzuto's uniform number, 10, was retired by the Yankees on August 4, 1985.

In 1956, Mr. Rizzuto was hired as a television sports announcer for the Yankees, a position in which he would serve for the next forty years. He quickly became beloved as a quirky and witty announcer and for his intense affection for the Yankee organization. Mr. Rizzuto's energetic style and use of popular phrases such as "Holy Cow" and "Did you see that?" to describe an exciting play moved him from the category of popular announcer to that of broadcasting legend. He was an institution in the Bronx.

Phil Rizzuto was one of the true legends associated with the Yankees. People came to depend on hearing his voice calling the plays and often a little more. He was part of the rich tapestry of people and players that have come to define this great sports organization.

The New York Yankees have become synonymous with the community where they have played—the Bronx. They are part of the fabric of the community. Phil Rizzuto understood that special relationship. In return, he became an honorary son of the Bronx.

Mr. Rizzuto was truly a one-of-a-kind New Yorker and a Yankee legend. Although the Scooter is gone, he will certainly not be forgotten. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute and bidding farewell to this baseball hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I was on a leave of absence for personal reasons on September 19 and 20. Consequently, I missed several rollcall votes. At this time, I wish to note that had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 884, "yea" on rollcall No. 885, and "yea" on rollcall No. 890.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN LEGISLATORS AND OFFICE DEPOT

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the National Foundation for Women Legislators for working to distribute

thousands of backpacks filled with school supplies in every U.S. State and Puerto Rico.

These backpacks have been donated by Office Depot and are being distributed to at-risk and disadvantaged youth. As lawmakers we introduce and pass legislation every year that affects our Nation's youth. We talk about statistics and reading performance and free lunch programs, but we do not talk enough about ensuring that all students have the school supplies they need to perform both inside and out of the classroom.

Office Depot's National Backpack Program, now in its seventh year, is designed to make a difference in communities across the country and put backpacks in the hands of underprivileged and at-risk children so they have the tools they need to start the school year. Beginning in 2001 with 80,000 backpacks donated nationwide, the program has expanded to deliver 100,000 backpacks in 2002 and in 2003 and 2004, the program was increased to 200,000 backpacks containing school supplies. In 2005, the program grew to 300,000 backpacks with school supplies and finally, in 2006, 300,000 backpacks were again donated by Office Depot across North America and in Puerto Rico, totaling more than 1 million backpacks in the hands of children since the inception of the program.

Sadly, there are hundreds of thousands of children who cannot afford the basic supplies they need for school. This backpack initiative not only alleviates some of the financial burden from the many single-family households that are stretching their budget and have enough to worry about paying for food and bills, but it also allows their children to have the pride of being able to start the school year the right way.

I am proud to say that 1,000 backpacks will be delivered to the Bradley Elementary School in my home district. I ask all of my colleagues in this United States Congress to join me in recognizing the National Foundation for Women Legislators and their partnership with Office Depot, whose efforts to empower our children and provide them the tools they need to be successful in school and in life are to be commended.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT ADMINISTRATION'S SEPTEMBER 9, 2007 OIL DEAL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern about the administration's involvement in an oil deal announced on September 9, 2007, between the U.S. company Hunt Oil and the Kurdistan Regional Government. This oil deal appears to benefit a large Republican donor and ally of President Bush and Vice President Cheney.

The recent oil deal between the U.S.-based Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government raises numerous questions. Hunt Oil, a privately held oil company based in Texas, and its founder, Ray Hunt, have close ties to Vice President Cheney and are large donors to President Bush. The deal appears to undercut the goal of oil revenue sharing but is predictably consistent with the administration's attempt to privatize Iraqi oil assets.

This war is about oil. The Bush administration desires private control of Iraqi oil, but we have no right to force Iraq to give up their oil. We have no right to set preconditions for Iraq which lead Iraq to giving up control of their oil. The constitution of Iraq designates that the oil of Iraq is the property of all Iraqi people.

The Administration has misled Congress and the media into thinking that pending Iraqi oil legislation before Iraq's Parliament was about the fair distribution of oil revenue. But the Hunt Oil deal with Kurdistan exposes the real intent of that legislation, promotion of a privatization scheme.

The Hunt Oil deal with Kurdistan suggests the war has made foreign access to Iraqi oil a reality. Because the connections between Hunt Oil Company and the Bush administration are numerous, I have asked the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to investigate Hunt Oil's ties to the Bush Administration and Halliburton.

The contract between Hunt Oil and Kurdistan would be the first of its kind in the Middle East where oil has been nationalized for decades and foreign oil companies have had no presence. The lack of consensus on how to manage the Iraqi oil resources suggests that the Hunt Oil Company deal could lead to greater instability within Iraq.

I have sent a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urging an immediate investigation into the implications of the Hunt Oil Company's recent production sharing agreement for petroleum exploration with Kurdistan on U.S. and Iraqi national security.

Congress should put a stop to the outrageous exploitation of a nation already in shambles due to U.S. intervention. I will soon introduce legislation to prevent all U.S. companies from gaining financial interests in Iraq's oil resources. I hope my colleagues will join me to ensure that the people of Iraq are not made to endure greater suffering and injustice that has already occurred because of this illegal and unjust war.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 18, 2007.

Hon. CONDOLEEZZA RICE,
Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY RICE: To assure the national security of the U.S. and Iraq I urge an immediate investigation into Hunt Oil Company's recent production sharing agreement for petroleum exploration with Kurdistan. The Iraq Central Government reportedly considers this agreement illegitimate. As such, a thorough investigation assessing the threat posed by the agreement to U.S. and Iraqi national security interests should be conducted promptly.

The Constitution of Iraq designates that the oil of Iraq is the property of all Iraqi people. Thus, it is unsurprising that the Iraqi Central Government believes that the oil production sharing agreement between Hunt Oil Company and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) is illegal. The agreement is reportedly based on oil law passed by the KRG and is the subject of much legal debate. The lack of consensus on how to manage the Iraqi oil resources suggest that the Hunt Oil Company deal could lead to greater instability within Iraq.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the contract between Hunt Oil and the KRG would be the first of its kind in the Middle East where oil has been nationalized for decades. Foreign oil companies have had no presence in the Middle East for decades. The legality